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JIANG YE

CHAPTER 37

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CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

SANG SANG

A DARK, SLIM YOUNG GIRL OF THE TANG EMPIRE. RETICENT, BUT VERY DEPENDABLE, LIVES TOGETHER WITH NING QUE IN MUTUAL RELIANCE. AFFLICTED WITH A COLDNESS DISEASE SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG, LEAVING HER BODY PERPETUALLY ICY COLD, DOES ALL SORTS OF MANUAL LABOUR ON AN EVERYDAY BASIS TO COUNTER THIS. LOOKS AFTER NING QUE WITH GREAT CARE, AND THE TWO OF THEM HAVE GREAT CHEMISTRY.

NING QUE

A LOW-RANKING SOLDIER STATIONED AT THE BORDER OF THE TANG EMPIRE. EXTREMELY PRAGMATIC AND THICK-SKINNED, QUICK WITTED BUT OFTEN COLD TO OTHERS. AN EXPERT IN CALLIGRAPHY AND SWORDPLAY, AND NEVER WASTES AN ARROW. HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO BECOME A PRACTITIONER, AND SEEMINGLY CARRIES A DEEP SECRET. DEEMED BY THE NORTHERN PI GENERAL OF WEI CITY TO BE "THE MOST LIKELY PERSON TO SURVIVE ANY BATTLE."

YU LIAN

THE THIRD SHIJIE OF THE ACADEMY. QUIET AND RETICENT. PERPETUALLY SEATED BESIDE THE EAST WINDOW OF THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE OLD LIBRARY IN THE ACADEMY, WHERE SHE SILENTLY WRITES DELICATE CALLIGRAPHY. GREATLY ADMIRES NING QUE.

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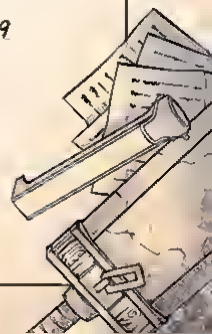
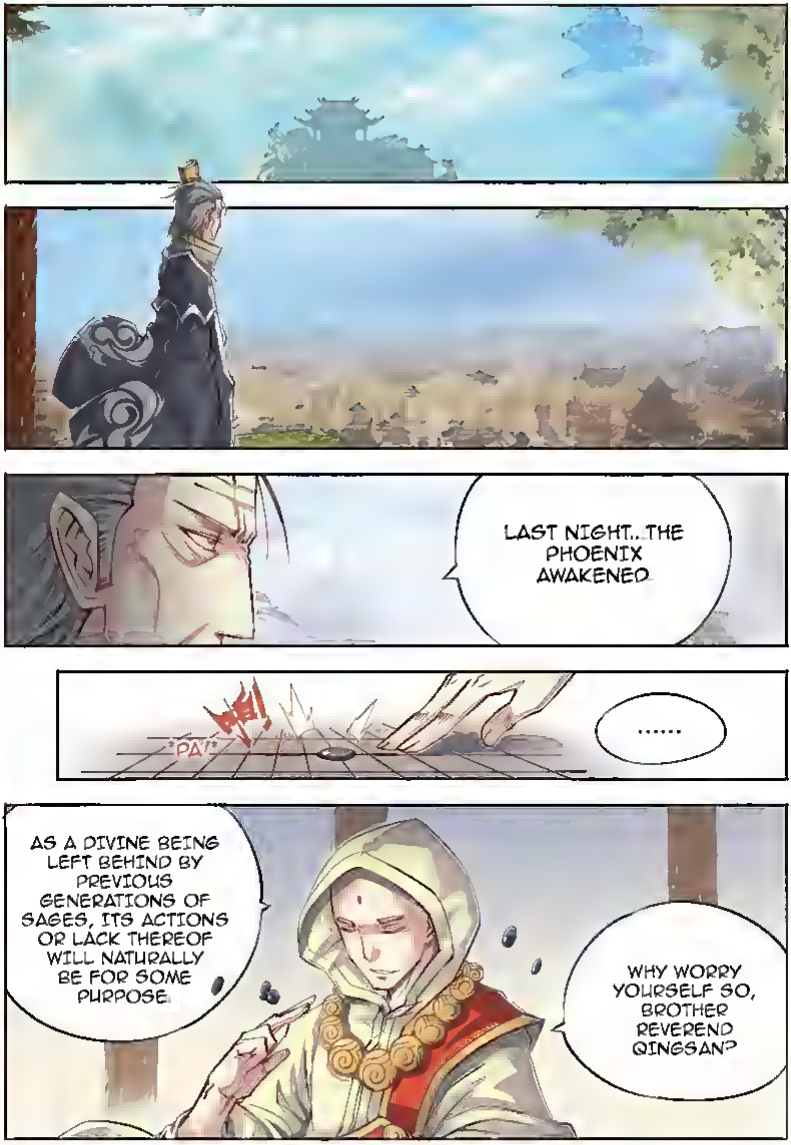


VOLUME 6
THE STORY THUS FAR

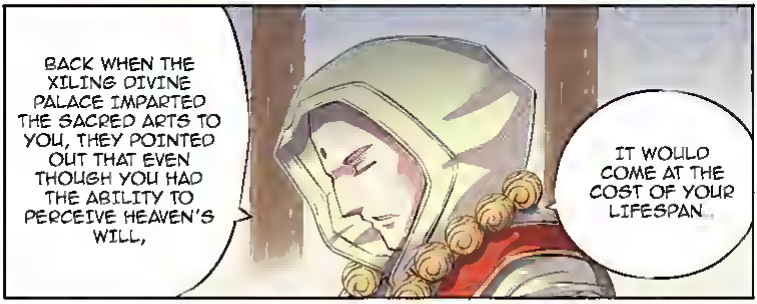
NING QUE HAD FOUND A WAY TO READ THE TEXTS IN THE OLD LIBRARY, AND WAS SO HAPPY OVER THIS THAT HE GOT ROARING DRUNK DURING THE GATHERING AT THE RED SLEEVES. THE NOTE HE CASUALLY WROTE TO SANGSANG WAS SEEN BY THE CHARM MASTER YAN SE, WHO WAS DEEPLY STARTLED BY WHAT HE FOUND
THESE WORDS...
U
THE CORRESPONDENCE WITH CHEN PIPI CONTINUED, AND NING QUE, WHO WAS CONTINUALLY MOCKED BY CHEN PIPI, ACTUALLY TRIED TO LEARN THE HAORAN SWORD, WHICH LEFT HIM SEVERELY WOUNDED

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT HE COULD BECOME A PRACTITIONER, NING QUE STILL HAD TO CONTINUE ON HIS PATH OF REVENGE. THE ONE HE WAS TRYING TO ELIMINATE THIS TIME ROUND WAS THE ONE LINKED WITH FORGING DOCUMENTS, YAN SUQING. UNBEKNOWNST TO NING QUE, HE WAS A SWORD MASTER, BUT HAVING CHALLENGED HIM, NING QUE COULD ONLY ADVANCE, AND NOT RETREAT!
SINCE YOU'VE COME,DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STILL RETREAT?!
EXERTING HIS ALL IN A CLOSE FIGHT, NING QUE EMERGED VICTORIOUS, BUT SEVERELY INJURED! ORIGINALLY HIS CONDITION APPEARED HOPELESS, BUT HE UNEXPECTEDLY AWAKENED THE PHOENIX GUARDIAN SPIRIT! WITH HIS BLEEDING CLEANSED BUT HIS INJURIES LEFT UNHEALED, HOW CAN NING QUE SAVE HIMSELF?

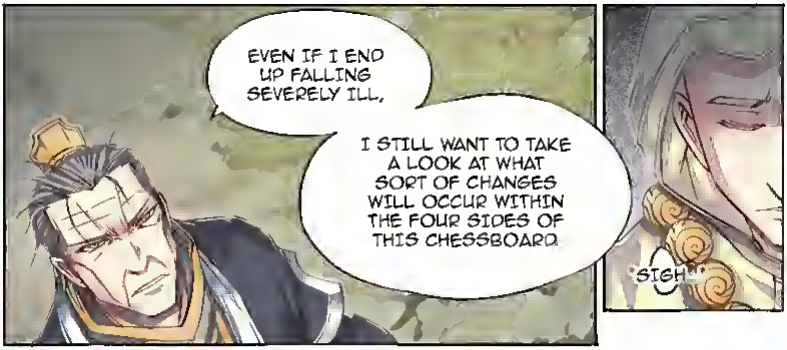
CHAPTER 37:
THE UNBEARABLE
LIGHTNESS
OF BEING
生命不可承受之輕
第三十七回


LAST NIGHT..THE PHOENIX AWAKENED.
PA!
DIE!
.....
AS A DIVINE BEING LEFT BEHIND BY PREVIOUS GENERATIONS OF SAGES, ITS ACTIONS OR LACK THEREOF WILL NATURALLY BE FOR SOME PURPOSE.
WHY WORRY YOURSELF SO, BROTHER REVEREND QINGSAN?

I'M WONDERING,
SHOULD I PERFORM A DIVINATION?

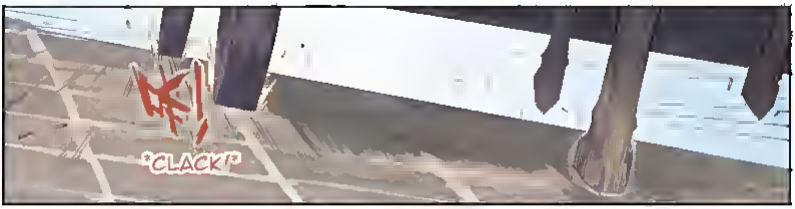

BACK WHEN THE XILING DIVINE PALACE IMPARTED THE SACRED ARTS TO YOU, THEY POINTED OUT THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD THE ABILITY TO PERCEIVE HEAVEN'S WILL,
IT WOULD COME AT THE COST OF YOUR LIFESPAN.

.....
BUT...


EVEN IF I END UP FALLING SEVERELY ILL,
I STILL WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT SORT OF CHANGES WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE FOUR SIDES OF THIS CHESSBOARD.
SIGH...

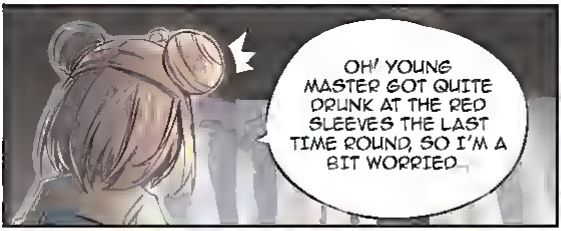
GRAB
SHA-!!
!
THIS VARIABLE...

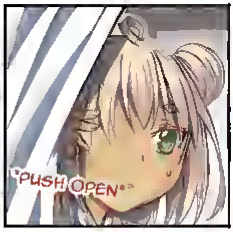
THE OLD LIBRARY
IS ABOUT TO DIE.
MORNING
AFTERNOON
EVENING

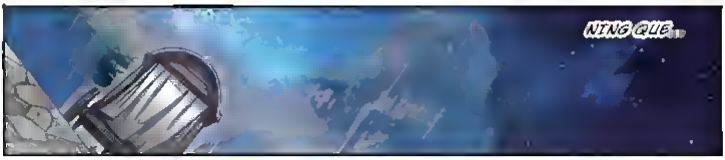

"CLACK!"

AH, SANGSANG,
WHY ARE YOU PERSONALLY GOING TO PICK BOSS NING UP THIS TIME ROUND?

.....
NING QUE DIDN'T COME HOME THE WHOLE DAY, AND OLD DUAN SAID THAT HE HAD GONE TO THE ACADEMY EARLY IN THE MORNING...
SANGSANG?

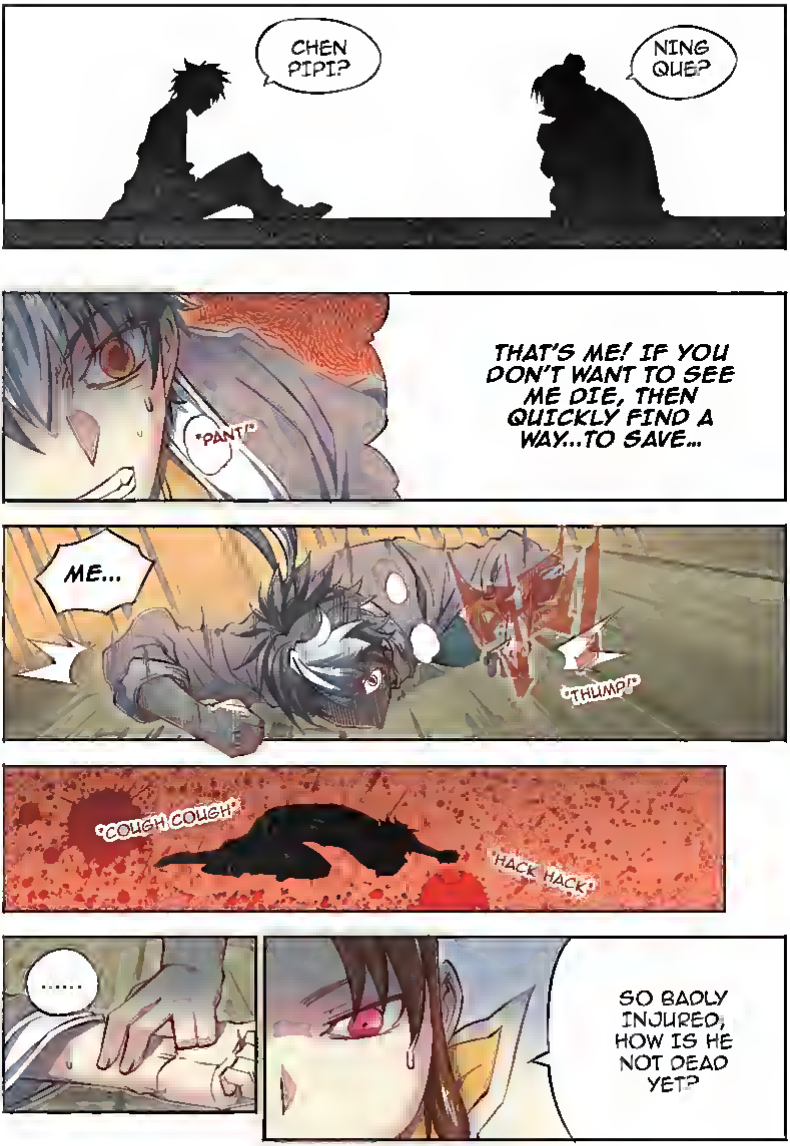

OH! YOUNG MASTER GOT QUITE DRUNK AT THE RED SLEEVES THE LAST TIME ROUND, SO I'M A BIT WORRIED...


"PUSH OPEN"


NING QUE...

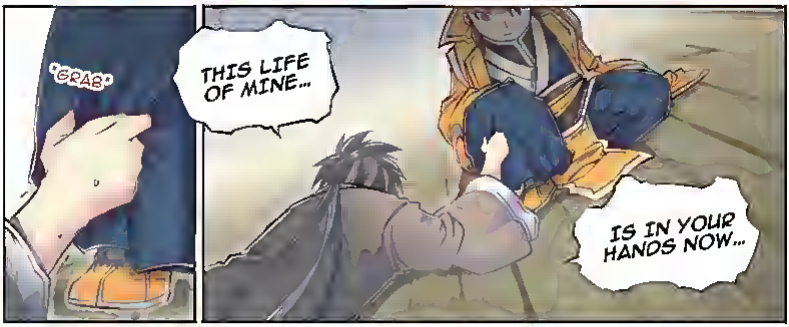
"SHA!"
"COUGH COUGH"
!
NOT QUITE!
THERE'S ANOTHER...
"CLACK!"
"CLACK!"
"CLACK!"
VARIABLE!

NOTE: LITERALLY REFERRING TO "YAKSA" OR "YASHA" (AS IN "INUYASHA") A HINDU AND LATER ALSO BUDDHIST IMAGE OF A RANGE OF SPIRITS OR DEMIGODS


CHEN PIPI?
NING QUE?
PANT
THAT'S ME! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME DIE, THEN QUICKLY FIND A WAY...TO SAVE...
ME...
THUMP!
COUGH COUGH
HACK HACK
.....
SO BADLY INJURED, HOW IS HE NOT DEAD YET?

NOT DEAD... DOESN'T MEAN THAT I WON'T DIE...
I'M ALREADY NEAR DEATH... YOU MORON... STILL WASTING TIME TALKING...
YOU'RE THE MORON! WITH SUCH SEVERE INJURIES,
WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY IN CHANG'AN CITY FOR TREATMENT?
STILL WASTING TIME IN THE ACADEMY! DON'T TELL ME YOU CAME TO FIND ME FOR TREATMENT?!
WHY NOT...
DIDN'T YOU SAY...YOU WERE A GENIUS?
WHAT DOES GENIUS HAVE TO DO WITH MEDICAL SKILL? YOU SHOULD ALREADY BE DEAD; HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CURE YOU?!
EVEN THAT LADY LECTURER WHO'S USUALLY SO GENTLE AND CARING HAS ABANDONED ME... YOU... HAD BETTER NOT ABANDON ME...

NOTE: FEMALE SENIOR.



WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
SHAAAKING
YOU SHAMELESS GUY! ARE YOU TRYING TO BULLY ME INTO HAVING TO SAVE YOU?!
WHO DOES SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!

NOTE: LITERALLY "A SUNZI SHOULD NOT BE AS MERE TOOLS", A CONFUCIAN SAYING THAT WARNS AGAINST THINKING THAT ONE ONLY HAS A SINGLE PURPOSE IN LIFE

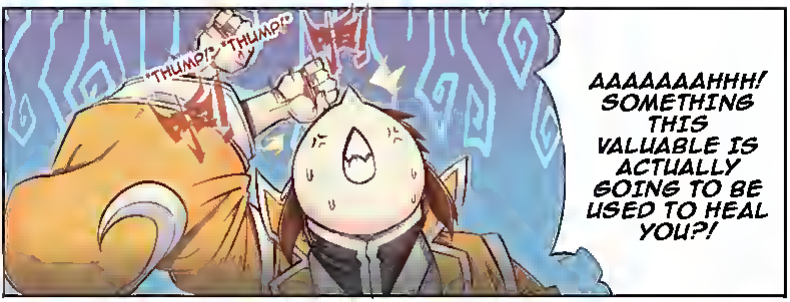
WITH THE "WILL OF VERSATILITY" THAT TEACHER PERSONALLY IMPARTED TO ME,
AND THIS UNPARALLELED GENIUS' "DIVINE FINGER OF UNIVERSAL BALANCE"... IT'LL TAKE BUT A MOMENT.

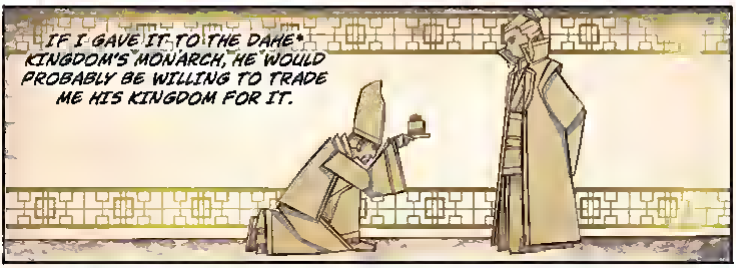
NOTE: REFERRING TO A DAOIST PRINCIPLE WHICH ADVOCATES FAVOURING THE WEAK IN MAKING FAWS TO COUNTERACT THE NATURAL ADVANTAGE OF THE STRONG

!?
WHAT WAS THAT?!
THIS COLD QI WAS ACTUALLY ABLE TO SHAKE MY CORE!
AND THAT INTENSELY FIERY QI THAT BROKE DOWN HIS SNOW MOUNTAIN, THAT DESTRUCTIVE WILL...
PACING
.....
BACK AND FORTH

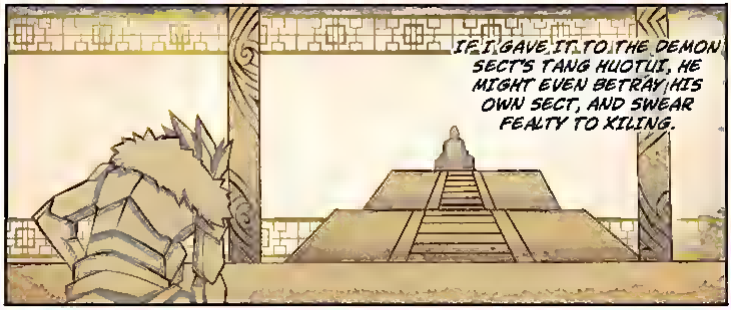
EVEN AS THE SNOW MOUNTAIN IN HIS BODY IS BEING DESTROYED, A NEW ONE IS BEING FORMED SIMULTANEOUSLY; SUCH AN UNBELIEVABLY INTRICATE AND MARVELLOUS PROCESS.
PROBABLY EVEN THE DIVINE DESCENT TECHNIQUE BACK AT THE PALACE USED TO OPEN UP ONE'S QI FLOW CAN'T COMPARE TO THIS.
BUT HIS SNOW MOUNTAIN RIGHT NOW IS EXTREMELY UNSTABLE AND COULD COLLAPSE AT ANY TIME.
UNLESS THERE'S SOME RARE OR EXOTIC PLANT FROM FOREIGN LANDS THAT'S BEEN NOURISHED BY NATURE'S ENERGIES FOR MILLENNIA.

BUT ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, WHERE CAN I POSSIBLY FIND
SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!
!
WAIT!
DETDIEVING
.....
DON'T TELL ME I HAVE TO...

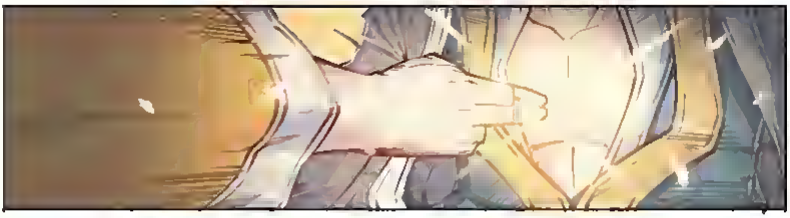


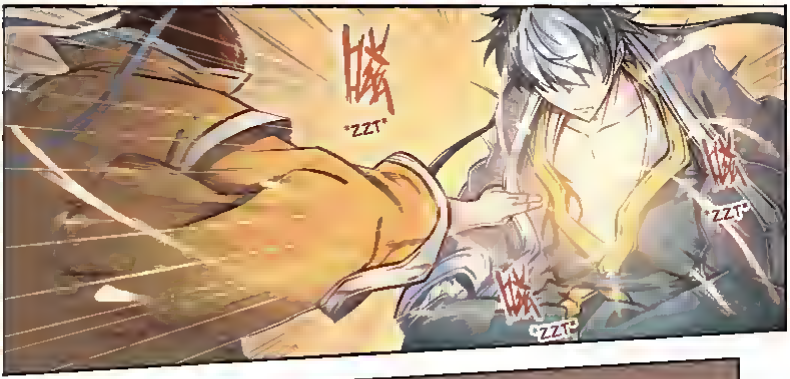


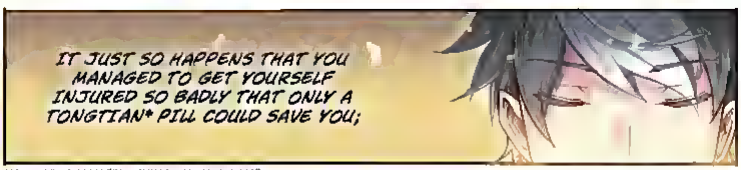
NOTE: UNKNOWN REFERENCE. BUT IS A HOMONYM FOR THE KANJI THAT TRANSLATES TO "YAMATO" IN JAPANESE.



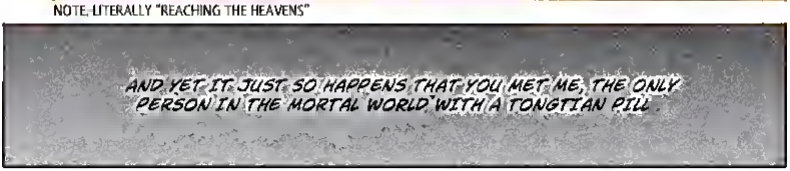
AAAARGH!! THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR SHIXIONG YE'S ULTIMATE DOOM!!
.....
CLEVER AND RESILIENT, WITH A DECENT ABILITY TO GRASP CONCEPTS, YET UNABLE TO ACHIEVE QI FLOW.
YOU REALLY ARE A CHILD CURSED BY HEAVEN..







NOTE: LITERALLY "REACHING THE HEAVENS"



AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I CAN'T HARDEN MY HEART TO JUST WATCH YOU DIE...
SO,
YOU — ARE ACTUALLY A YOUTH BLESSED BY HEAVEN.